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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164397

FOL REPEAT PARIS 17949 SENT ACTION SECSTATE GENEVA INFO BONN

CAIRO DAMASCUS LONDON ROME TEL AVIV JULY 10, 1975

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17949

FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SY, IS, EG

SUBJECT: EC-9 MIDDLE EAST DECLARATION

REF : ROME 9876

SUMMARY: IN A MEETING AT THE QUAI TODAY SENIOR DEPARTMENT AND FRENCH OFFICIALS REVIEWED EC-9 ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. FRENCH OFFICIALS INDICATED EC-9 MEETING STUDIED IDEA OF DRAFTING DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST, FOLLOWING LINE OF NOVEMBER 1973 ANALOGOUS DOCUMENT, FOR CONTINGENCY USE IN THE EVENT STEP BY STEP SEARCH FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT BECOMES IMMOBILIZED. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MEETING AT QUAI D'ORSAY WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING SECRETARY'S AND AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MIN-
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PAGE 02 STATE 164397

ISTER SAUVAGNARGUES AND PRESIDENT GISCARD, COUNSELOR

SONNENFELDT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, DIRECTOR POLICY PLANNING LORD WITH DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DE LABOULAYE, AND DIRECTOR NEAR EAST AFFAIRS CERLES, DISCUSSED EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS RECENT MEETING IN ROME. LABOULAYE STATED MEETING, AT GERMAN SUGGESTION, REVIEWED IDEA DRAFTING JOINT EC-9 DECLARATION ON MIDDLE EAST FOR USE IN EVENT OF NEGOTIATING BREAKDOWN. LABOULAYE AGREED WITH SONNENFELDT THAT TIMING OF ANY EC-9 DECLARATION WAS OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE. HE EXPRESSED FRENCH VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A DRAFT DECLARATION READY FOR USE BY THE NINE IF IT BECAME APPARENT ME NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO GENEVA FOLLOWING A FAILURE OF THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH TO PRODUCE AN INTERIM SINAI AGREEMENT. HE INDICATED FRENCH BELIEVED THAT THE DECLARATION'S CONTENT WOULD BE LARGELY A RECONFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE GROUP'S NOVEMBER 1973 DECLARATION

2. SONNENFELDT AND LORD STATED THAT THE SECRETARY ZE-
LIEVED USE OF SUCH A DECLARATION NOW WOULD BE "PRE-
MATURE." SONNENFELDT EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN AT POSSI-
BILITY OF LEAKAGE OF EVEN A DRAFT EC-9 NE ME DECLARA-
TION. LABOULAYE RESPONDED THAT FACT OF EC-9 INTEREST
IN NEW DECLARATION ALREADY KNOWN SINCE ISRAELI DIPLOMATS
HAD IMQUIRED ANXIOUSLY OF SEVERAL EC-9 MEMBERS. SONNEN-
FELDT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTATION WITH USG
BOTH ON CONTENT AND ON TIMING OF ANY SUCH DECLARATION
AND REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING SUBJECT OUT OF THE
PRESS. ATHERTON NOTED THAT NOVEMBER 1973 DECLARATION
WAS GENERALLY VIEWED AS EUROPEAN ENDORSEMENT OF A
PARTICULAR INTERPRETATION OF UN RESOLUTION 242, WHICH
AT THAT TIME WAS DECIDEDLY UNHELPFUL TO US EFFORTS WITH
ISRAELIS TO PRODUCE GREATER GOI FLEXIBILITY, SINCE
ISRAELIS SAW 1973 DECLARATION AS ESSENTIALLY PRO-ARAB
AND RESPONDED BY HARDENING OF THEIR POSITION.

RUSH

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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